



PRESS RELEASE

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OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA - The forecast for the 2005 **apple** production is 85 million pounds (2.02 million 42-lb. bushel equivalents), down 3 million pounds from the August 1 forecast, but up 4 million pounds or 5 percent from the 2004 crop.

Other hay production is forecast at 918,000 tons, down 4 percent from the 2004 crop. Other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 540,000 acres in 2005, up 10,000 acres from 2004. Yield is expected to average 1.7 tons per acre, down from last year's yield of 1.8 tons. Due to program modifications, October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not being published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2006.

The current estimate for **tobacco** production is a record low 850,000 pounds, down 50 percent from 2004. This estimate, reflecting the 'tobacco buyout', is carried forward from our August 1 forecast.

UNITED STATES

Apples: The final production forecast for the 2005 crop year is 9.38 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the August 1 forecast and 10 percent below 2004. Decreases in production were shown for all 7 forecasting States: Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. Production forecasts for Arkansas, Kansas, and New Mexico are no longer available. Growers in the Eastern, Central, and Western apple producing regions are expecting decreases in production compared to the August 1 forecast.

Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures: Production is forecast at 75.9 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.43 tons per acre, up 0.09 ton from August but down 0.04 ton from 2004. Harvested area is forecast at 22.1 million acres, unchanged from August but up 2 percent from last year.

Other Hay: Production is forecast at 76.9 million tons, up 1 percent from August but down 7 percent from 2004. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.94 tons, up 0.02 ton from August but down 0.11 ton from last year. Harvested area, at 39.6 million acres, is unchanged from August but down 2 percent from the previous year.

Corn: Production is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month but 8 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the second largest crop on record. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 146.1 bushels per acre, up 2.9 bushels from September but 14.3 bushels below last year. Forecast yields are either unchanged or higher than last month in all forecasting States, except Alabama and Mississippi. As harvest progresses, producers are finding the warm, dry conditions during July and August did not reduce yields as much as originally expected. Yields are better than last year in the northern tier States but are still well below last year's record highs in the central and eastern Corn Belt. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States and farmers now expect to harvest 74.3 million acres of corn for grain, up 15,000 acres from September and up 1 percent from 2004.

Soybean: Production is forecast at 2.97 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the September forecast but 5 percent below 2004. Based on conditions as of October 1, yield is expected to average 41.6 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from September but 0.6 bushel below last year's record high yield. Area planted is now estimated at 72.2 million acres, down 903,000 acres from the August estimate. Area for harvest is forecast at 71.3 million acres, down 914,000 acres from September.

Tobacco: U.S. all tobacco production is forecast at 640 million pounds, down 1 percent from the September forecast and 27 percent below 2004. Area for harvest is forecast at 307,010 acres, unchanged from September but down 25 percent from last year. If realized, this would be the smallest production since 1889 and the smallest acreage on record. Yields for 2005 are expected to average 2,083 pounds per acre, 16 pounds below last month's forecast and down 72 pounds from 2004.

Burley: Production is expected to total 192 million pounds, unchanged since the September forecast but down 34 percent from 2004. Growers plan to harvest 105,300 acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but 31 percent below last year. Yields are expected to average 1,826 pounds per acre, unchanged from the September forecast but 82 pounds less than a year ago.

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